

# GOSPEL IMAGES OF JESUS

It is not easy to describe Jesus Christ. How do you talk about someone who is both a true human being and also truly God? To help people understand who Jesus is, the Gospels sometimes describe him by using images people are familiar with. It is through these images that the nature of Jesus Christ is revealed. And you will find most of these images in the Gospel of John.

For example, in the Gospel of John, Jesus describes himself as the “good shepherd” (10:11). Shepherds were well known during the time of Christ; people knew very well that a good shepherd cares for his flock. A shepherd would even put his life in danger to protect his sheep. So this image of Jesus tells us that we are Jesus’ flock and that he cares deeply for every one of us. He even lays down his life for us.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus also says: “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die” (11:25). Wow! When Jesus said this, he was claiming power over death. He was saying that we too will rise from the dead if we believe in Jesus and place our hope and trust in him. That’s a promise.



## BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT GOSPEL IMAGES OF JESUS

**John 1:1-18**  
The Word of life

**John 3:1-21**  
Jesus and Nicodemus

**John 4:1-42**  
Jesus and the Samaritan woman

**John 6:25-59**  
Jesus the bread of life

**John 8:12-20**  
Jesus the light of the world

**John 10:1-21**  
Jesus the Good Shepherd

**John 11:17-27**  
Jesus the Resurrection and the life

**John 14:1-14**  
Jesus the way to the Father

**John 15:1-17**  
Jesus the real vine

## BREAKTHROUGH! ARTICLE

Read these articles to learn more about the images of Jesus in John.

**John 3:16**  
John 3:16

**Filling Up**  
John 7:37-39

**The “I Am” Sayings**  
John 8:12

**Jesus the Firefighter?**  
John 10:7-21

## REFLECTION

1. Read John 10:7-21 and the article that goes with it, “Jesus the Firefighter?” Write down some other occupations or images that mean “protector” to you, just as the image of a shepherd meant “protector” during Jesus’ time. Which image do you like best and why?
2. Jesus’ presence in our lives can be a great comfort, especially when loved ones are sick or have died. Look through the “Bible Passages about Gospel Images of Jesus.” Pick out one or two passages that seem the most hopeful to you and read them. Remember these images of Jesus when you are having a difficult time.

# LEADER GUIDE

# GOSPEL IMAGES OF JESUS



In the Gospel stories, Jesus sometimes describes himself in poetic terms. These poetic terms help us better understand Jesus, who is both truly God and truly human.

Read each of the following Bible passages. Complete the descriptive phrase that comes from each passage. You have been given the vowels for each phrase; fill in the blanks with the correct consonants. There is a list of the consonants you will need; cross them off as you use them.

GOSPEL IMAGES OF JESUS

**1. John 1:1-5**

Jesus is the \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ E.

**2. John 3:16-18**

Jesus is the O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_  
O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_.

**3. John 6:28-40**

Jesus is the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E A \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ E.

**4. John 8:12**

Jesus is the \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ O \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ \_\_\_.

**5. John 10:7-16**

Jesus is the \_\_\_ O O \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_.

**6. John 11:17-27**

Jesus is the \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ U \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ \_\_\_ I O \_\_\_  
A \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ E.

**7. John 15:1-10**

Jesus is the \_\_\_ I \_\_\_ E and we are the \_\_\_ \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ E \_\_\_.

CONSONANTS
BB
CC
DDDDDDDD
FFFFFFFF
GGG
HHHHHH
LLLLLL
NNNNNN
P
RRRRRRRR
SSSS
TTTT
V
WW
Y

Fill in the missing vowels to complete this statement about the Gospel of John.

The Gospel of John teaches that

J \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ S T H \_\_\_  
D \_\_\_ V \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ N \_\_\_ F G \_\_\_ D.

